

**Malahide Abbey, Co. Dublin
Monitoring Report**

Client: Fingal Co.Co.

Archaeologist: Aidan O'Connell

Report Date: 10th November 2023

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Malahide Abbey

Archaeological Monitoring

SITE NAME	Malahide Abbey
INVESTIGATION TYPE	Archaeological Monitoring
MINISTERIAL CONSENT	C001197
WORKS REGISTRATION	W000541
EXCAVATION REGISTRATION	E005524
PLANNING REF.	N/A
TOWNLAND	Malahide Demesne
IRISH TRANSVERSE MERCATOR	721991, 745446
RMP NO	DU012-031001
RPS NO	N/A
ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANT	Archer Heritage Planning Ltd.
ARCHAEOLOGIST	Aidan O'Connell
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CONTENTS

CONTENTS	I
SUMMARY	III
1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 PROPOSED WORKS	1
2. RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT	1
3. METHOD STATEMENT	2
4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	2
4.1 BRIEF ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	2
4.2 RECORD OF MONUMENTS & PLACES	3
4.3 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES	5
5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING	6
5.1 LICENCE APPLICATION	6
5.2 REMOVAL OF VEGETATION	6
5.3 REMOVAL OF STONE AND CULTURAL MATERIAL	7
5.4 EXAMINATION OF LOOSE STONE	8
5.5 GROUND DISTURBANCE	8
5.6 HUMAN REMAINS	9
5.7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBJECTS	9
6. CONCLUSIONS	9
7. REFERENCES	10
7.1 BIBLIOGRAPHY	10
7.2 WEB REFERENCES	10

List of Tables

Error! Reference source not found.Record of monuments and places

Table 2: Details of historical mapping

List of Figures

Figure 1: Location of site and surrounding RMPs

Figure 2: Church and Graveyard layout plan

Figure 3: Extracts from historical maps (i)

Figure 4: Extracts from historical maps (ii)

List of Plates

Plate 1: View of East Gable showing vegetation and Sheela-na-gig DU012-031003

Plate 2: View of NE external wall showing vegetation and Sheela-na-gig DU012-031002

Plate 3: Removal of vegetation from internal first floor of Residential Tower

Plate 4: Removal of vegetation from external north wall

Plate 5: Stone infill observed in east gable following vegetation removal

Plate 6: Possible arch on east gable

Plate 7: Vegetation growing along southern side of internal graveyard wall

Plate 8: Privet hedge on internal side of northeastern boundary wall

Plate 9: Vegetation growing on internal face of graveyard boundary wall from south

Plate 10: View of exposed building at south of boundary wall from northeast

Plate 11: View of re-pointed building at south of boundary wall from east

Plate 12: View of repairs to boundary wall from east

Plate 13: Removal of vegetation from internal side of boundary wall from northeast

Plate 14: Loose stone retained at the internal side of boundary wall from northeast

Plate 15: Coping stones stored along internal face of southern boundary wall from northwest

Plate 16: Loose stone collected and stored at southwestern side of boundary wall

Plate 17: Loose stone collected and stored at southwestern side of boundary wall

Plate 18: General view of church interior from northwest showing grave slab and tombs

Plate 19: View of grave slab removal from west

Plate 20: View of ground surface following removal of grave slab at west of church

Plate 21: Reinstated grave slab from west; note position of ambry in background

Plate 22: Grave marker relocated to western corner of church

Plate 23: View of tomb in advance of dismantling from north

Plate 24: Dismantling of tomb structure from north

Plate 25: Internal view of tomb

Plate 26: Reinstated tomb

Plate 27: General view of church taken from the chancel with reconstructed tomb in foreground

Plate 28: Reconstructed wall plate at north of nave

Plate 29: Threshold at first floor level in the residential tower

Plate 30: Crushed stone covering over floor level; residential tower; first floor; from south

Plate 31: Soil removal from under external buttress at northern corner of church

Plate 32: Soil removal from under external buttress at western corner of church

SUMMARY

Archaeological Monitoring at Malahide Abbey under ministerial consent C001197 was conducted by Aidan O'Connell of Archer Heritage Planning Ltd. on behalf of Fingal Co. Co. Malahide Abbey is a National Monument in the ownership of Fingal County Council. Consequently works were undertaken under Ministerial Consent (C001197; W000541; E005524) issued by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The following works components were monitored:

- Removal of vegetation and existing fabric was undertaken under archaeological supervision.
- All stone and cultural material removed was examined by the archaeologist.
- Existing loose stone was examined by the archaeologist for suitability for reuse.
- Ground disturbance works were monitored.

No new features, finds or deposits of archaeological significance were identified during the course of monitoring. The work was overseen and administered by Fingal County Council under the Community Monuments Fund.

Revision	Status	Date	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Approved by
1	Final	17 th Nov 2023	AOC	BK	CMcG

1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring (C001197) undertaken by Aidan O'Connell of Archer Heritage Planning Ltd. on behalf of Fingal Co. Co. Conservation works undertaken under the Community Monuments fund were administered and overseen by Fingal County Council. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Aidan O'Connell between September and November 2023.

1.1 Proposed Works

The site is in the ownership of Fingal County Council who proposed to undertake conservation works under the CMF. The conservation repair works proposed for Malahide Church and Graveyard will comprise re-pointing and wall-top rough-racking after some remaining vegetation removal, some limited church masonry consolidation, specific carved window tracery stone repairs and a ground surface upgrade inside the church walls to facilitate access and control unwanted vegetation. The graveyard wall will also be re-bedded and re-pointed. One day of conservation training for council staff will be based on this element of the works. The works will promote the use of traditional lime mortars, and the approach to the work will be informed by best conservation practice as well as following published guidance from The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage's Advice Series 'Ruins – The Conservation and Repair of Masonry Ruins' and 'Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2011)'; Historic Scotland and others.

2. RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

The proposed works will take place within a rich Cultural Heritage environment centred around Malahide Castle and Demesne. Malahide castle (DU012:030) was originally built in the twelfth century and was occupied until 1975. From the twelfth century onwards, Malahide developed around the Talbot Castle. The church (RMP DU015-007001-; RPS No. 478; NIAH Reg No. 11351005) is situated on the grounds of, and adjacent to, Malahide Castle. It comprises a nave (approx 17m x 7m) and chancel (approx 9m x 5.7m), with a square, two storey tower at its south-east corner incorporating a first floor vault. The nave walls have crenelated parapets. The east gable and chancel arch have crowstep verges. The west gable has a bell-cote supported on twin pilasters framing the west window. In medieval times, it was a chapel of ease within the Parish of Swords. In 1547 Malahide was described as one of the chief haven towns of Ireland because of its very safe harbour. The village continued to develop as a fishing port and was also the site of several silk and poplin mills. Recorded monuments within Malahide Demesne are listed below in Table 1. In addition to the church and graveyard there are an architectural fragment, an effigial tomb and two Sheela-na-gigs- within the church. The architectural fragment (DU012-031004) consists of a carving of a 'mitred head' on the exterior of the southern door of the church. The effigial

tomb (DU012-031005) dates to the fifteenth century. It is an altar tomb commemorating Maud Plunkett. The Sheela-na-gigs- are built into the eastern gable of the church.

3. METHOD STATEMENT

Monitoring was carried out between September and November 2023. The aims of the archaeological monitoring are to record any objects, features or deposits of archaeological potential identified in the course of the works to establish their character, condition and extent. Any newly recorded items of archaeological significance and potential will be reported immediately to the National Monuments Service and Fingal County Council. The recorded information will be detailed in all project reports

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Brief archaeological & historical background

The area around Malahide has witnessed settlement activity from the earliest phases of the prehistoric period and evidence for occupation from the Mesolithic period (c. 8000–4000 BC) through to the Bronze Age (c. 2400 – 800 BC) has been recorded in the surrounding area. Malahide is also the reputed location of an early Christian Foundation dedicated to St Finweis. The exact location of this site is unclear, although it may be in the vicinity St. Sylvester's Church (DU012-023002). The village may have originated around a Viking landing point and the general area was settled by Scandinavians following the establishment of Dublin town. From the 12th century, Malahide was centred on Malahide Castle and Demesne. Malahide castle (DU012:030) was originally built in the twelfth century and was occupied until 1975. The lands were granted to Richard Talbot in the 1170's who established his seat at a motte and bailey castle (DU023-002) in St. Helens Townland. A permanent base was then established with the construction of a stone castle (DU012-030) in the late 12th century at Malahide Demesne. In 1547 Malahide was described as one of the chief haven towns of Ireland because of its very safe harbour. The village continued to develop as a fishing port and was also the site of several silk and poplin mills. In 1652 at the end of the Confederate wars, the Talbots were forcibly removed to Connaught and the castle was confiscated by Miles Corbet (Byrne 199). Following Corbet's flight from Ireland and his subsequent execution in the 1660s, John Talbot regained control of the castle.

Malahide Abbey (RMP DU015-007001-; RPS No. 478; NIAH Reg No. 11351005) is situated on the grounds of, and adjacent to, Malahide Castle. It comprises a nave (approx 17m x 7m) and chancel (approx 9m x 5.7m), with a square, two storey tower at its south-east corner incorporating a first floor vault. The nave walls have crenelated parapets. The east gable and chancel arch have crowstep verges. The west gable has a bell-cote supported on twin pilasters framing the west window. In medieval times, it was a chapel of ease within the Parish of Swords. The building was used by Cromwellian forces to stable their horses and lead from the roof removed and converted into bullets.

when Cromwell's soldiers were removed from Fingal, they left the church in the state of ruin it has been in since; and the parish of Malahide was without a place of worship and without a clergyman until early in the 19th century (Walsh 1888).

4.2 Record of Monuments & Places

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is a statutory inventory of archaeological sites protected under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004 (Section 12, 1994 Act), compiled and maintained by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI). The inventory concentrates on pre-1700 AD sites and is based on a previous inventory known as the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) which does not have legal protection or status (see www.archaeology.ie). There are seven RMPs within the environment of conservation works:

RMP	Class	Townland	ITM
DU012-030----	Castle - tower house	Malahide Demesne	721925, 745440
<p>Malahide castle erected on a elevated situation in the present grounds of the Demesne is associated with the Talbot family who were granted these lands by Henry II in 1174. The family remained here until 1973, except for a short period in 1653 when Talbot was outlawed and the castle and lands were given to Miles Corbet but later restored in 1665 (Anon 1914, 255-257). It is large, irregular, and unequal in it's height. The late medieval core of the castle is largely masked by a re-build c. 1760, which involved the construction of a long symmetrical wing with corner towers that enclosed the earlier castle thus creating a castellated structure. Externally this is of Georgian Gothic style. The castle was re-roofed and renovated in the 19th-century. The ground floor of the late medieval core is vaulted and entered by a Gothic doorway, the upper chambers are approached by a spiral staircase in a SE angle tower which projects in the E. On the first floor adjoining the hall in the medieval core of the castle is the Oak Room. This has a vaulted undercroft and corbel heads of Edward 1V, which are original (Dims L10.75m, Wth 7.15m, T 1.30m). It's walls are covered with carved panelling of 16th-century date. There is a 16th-century Flemish carving over the fireplace depicting the Assumption of the Virgin (Flanagan 1984, 25-29; Bence-Jones 1988, 198-199, O'Shea 1992, 12). Fingal County Council undertook an extensive restoration and conservation project in 2010/2011. Archaeological testing and excavation (Consent no. C451) in advance of wheelchair access insertion uncovered a set of steps at the north-west corner of the older part of the castle, an early possible enclosing wall identified below the Butler's House as well as a substantial ditch (1.7m in width), which was sealed by the likely late medieval courtyard and probably originally enclosed the 15th-century tower house.</p>			
DU012-031001-	Church	Malahide Demesne	721991, 745446
<p>Located in the grounds of Malahide Castle (DU012-030----). The church contains a nave (int. dims. L 16.9m, Wth 6.8m) and chancel (int. dims. L 8.8m, Wth 5.6m) with a sacristy attached to southeastern corner. There are stepped battlements on the side walls of the nave. Built of coursed, well mortared limestone masonry. There are buttresses against the west gable either side of the window and a batter or buttress in the southwest corner. The church is entered towards the west end of the nave through opposed doorways with pointed arches, chamfered jambs and a hood moulding. Apex on the exterior of the south door contains a 'mitred head' and a zoomorphic figure on the moulding stop. In the interior there is a red sandstone stoup (DU012-031004-) secured to south wall. There are fine triple light, ogee-headed W window of 15th-century date and two double-light tracery windows in the east end. Above the west gable is a triple bellcote with steps leading up to it. The chancel is entered through a pointed, segmental chancel arch. (Int. dims. L 8.80m, W 5.60m). Interior is lit by wide, flat-arched windows in the south wall. The east window is a large, limestone, triple-light, tracery window. Corbels project from the east wall at altar level. The sacristy is entered off the chancel by stepping down into a vaulted ground floor with wall presses. There is an external stairs to first floor which contains a fireplace and wall presses in the in the east wall. At the exterior east gable wall there is a sheela-na gig (DU012-031003-). Another sheela na-gig (DU012-031002-) is built into quoin at the northeast angle of the chancel of the medieval church (Healy 1975, 26; Anon 1914, 257; Hartnett 1954, 179, 181) The interior of the church has been used for burial and contains an altar tomb dedicated to Maud Plunkett (d. 1494) with a recumbent effigy of a female figure in a horned cap (DU012-031005-). There is a 19th century box tomb at the east end of the chancel. In 2010 the tree and vegetation growth which dominated the south of the</p>			

church was removed opening up the entire southern facade of the church.			
DU012-031002-	Sheela-na-gig	Malahide Demesne	722006, 745442
A sheela na-gig is built into quoin at the NE angle of the chancel of the medieval Church (DU012-031001-) (Hartnett 1954, 179). According to Freitag this sheela-na-gig is not in its original location as the lower part of the quoin has been cut off to fit the stone into its current position (Freitag 2004, 137). Described by Freitag as a 'figure carved in false relief on red sandstone and set within frame. Big, earless head, flat face with downcast eyes, drooping gash of a mouth; short neck; squat body. No ribs or breasts, but navel clearly indicated. Only left arm discernible, held straight with hand resting on thigh. Long vertical slit-vulva hanging between straight legs. No feet, presumably cut off together with lower edge' (Freitag 2004, 138).			
DU012-031003-	Sheela-na-gig	Malahide Demesne	722005, 745438
At the exterior E gable wall of the church (DU012-031001-) there is a carving of a stone head that was identified as a possible sheela-na gig (Healy 1975, 26; Anon 1914, 257; Hartnett 1954, 179, 181; McMahon and Roberts 2001, 140-1). It comprises a carved head and neck in red sandstone, the lower portion is damaged. The facial features are well pronounced (Hartnett 1954, 179-180). Described by Hartnett as 'a second stone of similar material and style of workmanship, measuring 10" x 10", is built into the south edge of the east gable. Here the facial features are better defined. The mouth is open, the tongue protruding slightly and the jaw sharply defined. The stone appears to have been broken off at the junction of neck and body. The two carvings are not only co-eval, but they are the work of the same craftsman. It may be assumed that they were fashioned for and served the same purpose.' (Hartnett 1954, 179). Weathering means the above description is difficult to discern.			
DU012-031004-	Architectural fragment	Malahide Demesne	721983, 745445
The apex on the exterior of the S door of the church (DU012-031001-) contains a carving of a 'mitred head'.			
DU012-031005-	Tomb - effigial	Malahide Demesne	721987, 745447
15th-century effigial tomb described in 1904 as; 'the tomb of "The Maid of Malahide," whose sorrows Gerald Griffin has immortalised in "The Joybells are ringing in fair Malahide." It is situated in the nave, and is railed round. I think that it is made of limestone. It has a shield on each side, supported by three angels in a circle. It is an altar-tomb, relieved only by a square moulding. On top, in high relief, is sculptured the fair Maud Plunkett. A horned cap adorns her head, which lies on a quaint pillow; her hands are folded praying, and she is clothed in a plain-looking dress with many folds, over a trailing skirt of similar appearance. Her feet rest on a cushion. The features are quite worn away, and the neck is much mutilated. The coats-of-arms are more modern. 'On the east end of the tomb is a shield bearing the emblems of the Crucifixion, viz. :—cross (forming the division line). On sinister side, pincers, ladder, scourge, and crown of thorns. On dexter side, three nails, seamless robe (remarkably like the Holy Coat of Treves) and spear. On West end, a heart pierced by two swords, hilts from base. On the north side, the shield bears a bendlet-couped meeting a pallet-couped. In dexter-chief is a castle. In sinister, nine little squares — I know not what to call them. On the south side, in dexter, a lion rampant ; in sinister chief, a castle, and a bend sinister couped' (Fowler 1906, 272-3). Effigial tomb of Maud Plunket described by Hunt (1974, 146-7) as follows; 'In the ruined fifteenth- or sixteenth-century church [DU012-031001-] in the grounds of Malahide castle is an altar tomb with the effigy of a woman on it, said to commemorate Maud Plunket, alias Hussey, afterwards Lady Talbot. She had as her first husband Sir Thomas Hussey, Baron of Galtrim, as her second Sir Richard Talbot, and as her third, John Cornewalsh, whose wife she was in 1445. Her first husband was killed in battle on the day of their marriage, so that she was 'maid, wife and widow in one day. Lord Walter FitzGerald has suggested that this tomb may be a cenotaph erected during her lifetime while she was married to Sir Richard Talbot. While closely following the technique and formula of the Meath School-to which this effigy belongs-the artist has allowed himself some slight departures from the model. The head-dress lacks the veil spreading over the cushion of the St Audoen's [DU018-317----] and Howth [DU015-029003-] tombs in the same county, and there are two cushions one over the other-with small tassels at the ends. The dress falls in a train to the right side, an unusual departure from the rigidly symmetrical disposition of these effigies. The feet rest on a tasseled cushion, instead of the usual dog. Around the margin of the mensa is a raised band which doubtless originally carried an inscription. The tomb-chest, instead of being decorated with niches as the others of the school are, has a circular reserve carved in each side and end; in these circles are shields, each upheld by two angels in long pleated robes, with a third angel at the top of the shield. The shield on the east end bears the arms of the Passion, while that on the west end bears two swords in saltire over a heart. The shield on the north side bears the Plunket and another (unidentifiable) coat of arms impaled, while that on the south side bears the Talbot and Plunket coat of arms impaled. The chest has affinities with the monument at New Abbey, Kilcullen, Co. Kildare [KD028-040002-]'. In the interior of the church ruins there is an altar tomb dedicated to Maud Plunkett (d. 1494) with a recumbent effigy of a female figure in a horned cap. The fashion elements date to c.1440 and it is suggested that the effigy was carved when Maud was married to her second husband Richard Talbot (Dunlevy 1999, 31). The tomb is surrounded by a decorative iron railing. To the western end both corners have been modified and consist of brick supports. The north-east corner is broken. Base decorated with Plunkett shields.			

Effigy set in thick slab (west end has been damaged and repaired). Vegetation had become established in north-corner of tomb. Significant lichen growth. Fowler, J. 1906 Malahide Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Journal of the Association for the Preservation of the Memorials of the Dead in Ireland, Vol. VI, 1904-06, 272-3. Dublin See attached black and white photographs taken by Edwin Rae, from the Edwin Rae Collection courtesy of Trinity College Dublin,			
DU012-031006-	Graveyard	Malahide Demesne	721995, 745455
Located in the grounds of Malahide Castle (DU012-030----) opposite the recently renovated Courtyard. This is a relatively small sub-circular graveyard enclosed by a battlemented wall (E-W c. 40m, N-S c. 45m) and curving hedgerow. It is raised in the centre and dominated by the church (DU012-031001-) the interior of which has been used for internment. The graveyard contains a number of inscribed 18th, 19th and early to mid-20th century gravestones. There are also undecorated grave markers and possibly reused architectural fragments. At least two examples of fallen slabs (one external and one internal to church) have been replaced by modern stones with original inscriptions eg. Lambs-1789 Peter 109 years, his wife died 1791 100 years, they lived together for 80 years. Monitoring (Licence no. C451; E4381) of the insertion of services during the redevelopment of the Malahide Castle & Gardens uncovered skeletal remains on the curving path 1m externally to the graveyard. These remains were uncovered at a depth of approximately 0.5m below the surface and were aligned east to west. All four individuals were truncated at the west by a modern service trench.			

Table 1: Record of Monuments and Places

4.3 Cartographic Sources

Analysis of historic mapping can show human impact on landscape over a prolonged period. Large collections of historical maps (pre- and early Ordnance Survey maps as well as estate or private maps) are held at the Glucksman Map Library, Trinity College and other sources (UCD Library, Ordnance Survey Ireland, local libraries and published material). The development of the site and its vicinity recorded in nineteenth and twentieth century cartography is described below. No new archaeological features or increased archaeological potential were noted from the study of cartographic sources.

Map	Date	Description
Roque (County Dublin Northeast)	1760	The site is described as "Malahide Court" and "Church Ruins" The area is depicted as cluster of buildings accompanied by extensive landscaped gardens.
Taylor	1816	The castle and the church are marked. The location is again described as Court of Malahide
1st Edition OS Map	1844	The subject area has the Malahide Castle, the Abbey and the graveyard marked. A cluster of buildings and landscaped garden appeared to the east of the church.
Last Edition OS Map	1906-9	The depiction is somewhat more crude than previous. There is no change in the surrounding of the castle and the abbey.

Table 1: Details of Historical Mapping

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

5.1 Licence Application

Malahide Abbey is a National Monument in the ownership of Fingal County Council. Consequently works were undertaken under Consent issued by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage under Section 14 of the National Monuments Act 1930 as amended by Section 5 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 2004. An archaeological method statement was prepared including a descriptive list of the proposed works and methodologies. The following works outline was provided in the Method Statement:

- All removal of vegetation and existing fabric will be undertaken under archaeological monitoring.
- All stone and cultural material removed will be examined by the archaeologist.
- Existing loose stone will be examined by the archaeologist for suitability for reuse.
- Any ground disturbance will be undertaken only under the strict direction of the archaeologist and will only be undertaken using archaeological excavation and recording methodologies.
- The archaeologist will submit a report (including plans, elevations, sections and photographs) to the NMS describing works undertaken and results of archaeological monitoring and excavation.

The method statement was included with the application for Ministerial Consent submitted to the National Monuments Service by Archer Heritage on behalf of Fingal County Council (9th June 2023). Ministerial consent was granted on the 14th of July 2023 with the following registration numbers:

- C001197 (Consent).
- W000541 (Conservation Works).
- E005524 (Archaeological monitoring and objects).

Prior notification of works was submitted to the National Monuments Service on the 30th August 2023 as per Condition 17 attached to E005524.

5.2 Removal of Vegetation

Ivy and other vegetation was observed growing on the Abbey structure (Plates 1-2). This was removed from the following locations in advance of conservation works:

- East Gable (inner & outer faces).
- North wall (inner and outer faces).
- West Gable (inner face).
- South wall (inner and outer faces).

- Residential tower/Sacristy.
- Boundary wall (including incorporated building).

Removal of vegetation was undertaken intermittently during September 2023 and involved careful hand removal (including use of small trowels) of vegetation ensuring no dislodgement of the existing masonry. This was initially carried out under direct archaeological supervision (Plates 3-4) and following establishment of the works methodology and process, watching brief. No significant masonry was dislodged in the course of vegetation removal. One potentially significant feature was, however, observed in the exposed masonry of the church structure. At the eastern gable, an infilled area was noted on the external face of the Residential Tower/Sacristy (Plate 5). This is most likely a late repair to the wall as red brick was observed built into the wall. However, within the stonework, a possible arch was noted which may point to an infilled opening (Plate 6). This corresponds to the base of the vaulted roof on the internal side in the ground floor of the tower. The putative arch may indicate the former presence of a door or window at the east gable.

Vegetation was particularly dense between the southwest and southeast of the graveyard boundary wall (see Plate 7). Also, a privet hedge was located along the northeastern internal face of the boundary wall (Plate 8). Elsewhere, it was less dense (Plate 9), although still contributing to deterioration of the wall fabric. Following removal of vegetation, the remains of a building were noted on the southern side of the boundary wall with a buttress or chimney attached to the eastern gable (Plate 10). Following removal of vegetation, minimal interventions were undertaken, involving re-pointing with lime mortar, flaunching at the roof plate of the building (Plate 11) and minimal reconstruction of the crenellations on the boundary wall (Plate 12). These works were inspected on an intermittent basis. Finally, dense vegetation was removed from the southeast and east portions of the graveyard (Plates 13-14). No subsurface works/uprooting of bushes was undertaken during these works which were inspected following completion.

5.3 Removal of stone and cultural material

During the course of conservation works, minimal interventions were carried out to the church structure and the boundary wall. Nonetheless, some loose stone and, in the case of the boundary wall, coping stones, were either dislodged or temporarily removed (Plates 14-15). These were initially set aside adjacent to the works area for inspection by the archaeologist (see below). Following discussion between the archaeologist and the contractor, it was determined that no stones either lodged or embedded in surrounding soil would be moved. Also loose surface stone was collected from the ground surface of the graveyard and church interior (Plate 16-17). All stone set aside in this manner was inspected by the archaeologist. No architectural stone or archaeological objects were noted in the course of these inspections.

A series of partially sunken grave markers and slabs on the church interior (Plate 18) were moved and re-instated in the course of the works. These works were carried out in the presence of the archaeologist. Slabs were supported on scaffolding boards and winched out of position (Plate 19). Following inspection of the ground surface by the archaeologist (Plate 20), they were set back in place following insertion of a level surface of crushed stone (Plate 21). In the course of reinstating the grave slab at the southeastern corner of the chancel, the position of an ambry (recess for holding tabernacle) on the internal eastern wall was noted close to the existing ground level, indicating the extent of infill on the church interior (see Plate 19 & 21). One grave marker (originally located under the west window) was moved to the western corner of the church and propped up against a slight recess in the south wall (Plate 22).

A box tomb was located on the south side of the chancel with the western end sinking. This was dismantled by hand in the presence of the archaeologist (plates 23-24). This revealed no human remains on or above the existing ground surface and a series of internal concrete block supports (Plate 25). The structure was reconstructed in the same position following insertion of a new foundation (Plate 26-27). No archaeological material was disturbed or exposed.

Masonry was removed from the internal side of the wall plate on the northern wall of the nave. This was visually inspected by the archaeologist in the course of the works. No record shots were taken as this portion of the works was undertaken at height. The stone was retained and re-used in reconstruction and re-pointing works (Plate 28).

5.4 Examination of loose stone

All loose stones collected in the course of the conservation works were set aside adjacent to the works areas and inspected by the archaeologist (see above and Plates 10-17). No archaeological objects or architectural fragments were noted. Some loose stone remains on the internal side of the northeastern boundary wall. These may be collected into gabions at a later date.

5.5 Ground Disturbance

Ground disturbance works were undertaken at three locations. At the first floor door threshold in the residential tower, c. 3-5cm of soil was removed from the ground surface (Plate 29). This work was undertaken without prior notification and in the absence of the archaeologist. A sketch plan was retained by the FCC Project Architect. The removed soil was raked by trowel and visually inspected by the archaeologist. No archaeological objects were identified. A surface of crushed stone was subsequently laid to aid drainage (Plate 30).

Approximately 5cm of soil was removed from the base of an external buttress located at the northern corner of the church (Plate 31). This was undertaken by the archaeologist in order to create a void needed to insert stone and re point the base of the wall. No archaeological objects were noted.

Approximately 5cm of soil was removed from the base of an external buttress located at the western corner of the church (Plate 32). This was undertaken by the archaeologist in order to create a void needed to insert stone and re point the base of the wall. No archaeological objects were noted.

5.6 Human Remains

No human remains were exposed or identified in the course of the monitoring works.

5.7 Archaeological Objects

No archaeological objects were recorded in the course of the monitoring works.

6. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological monitoring of conservation works was undertaken at Malahide Abbey between September and November 2023. No new features, finds or deposits of archaeological significance were identified during the course of monitoring. The work was overseen and administered by Fingal County Council under the Community Monuments Fund.

7. REFERENCES

7.1 Bibliography

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7.2 Web references

Cartographic sources www.geohive.ie, www.dublinhistoricmaps.ie [accessed November 2023]

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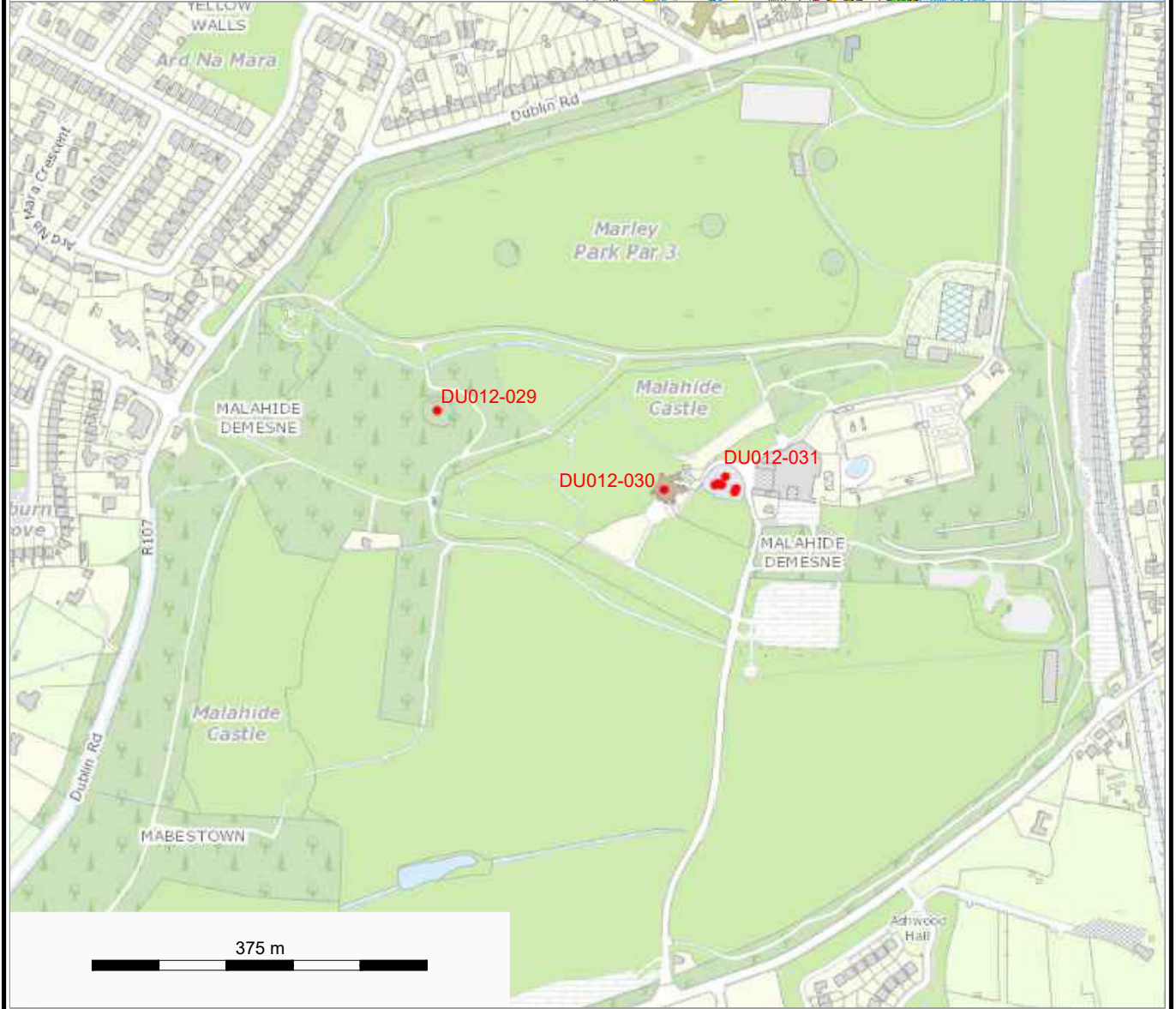
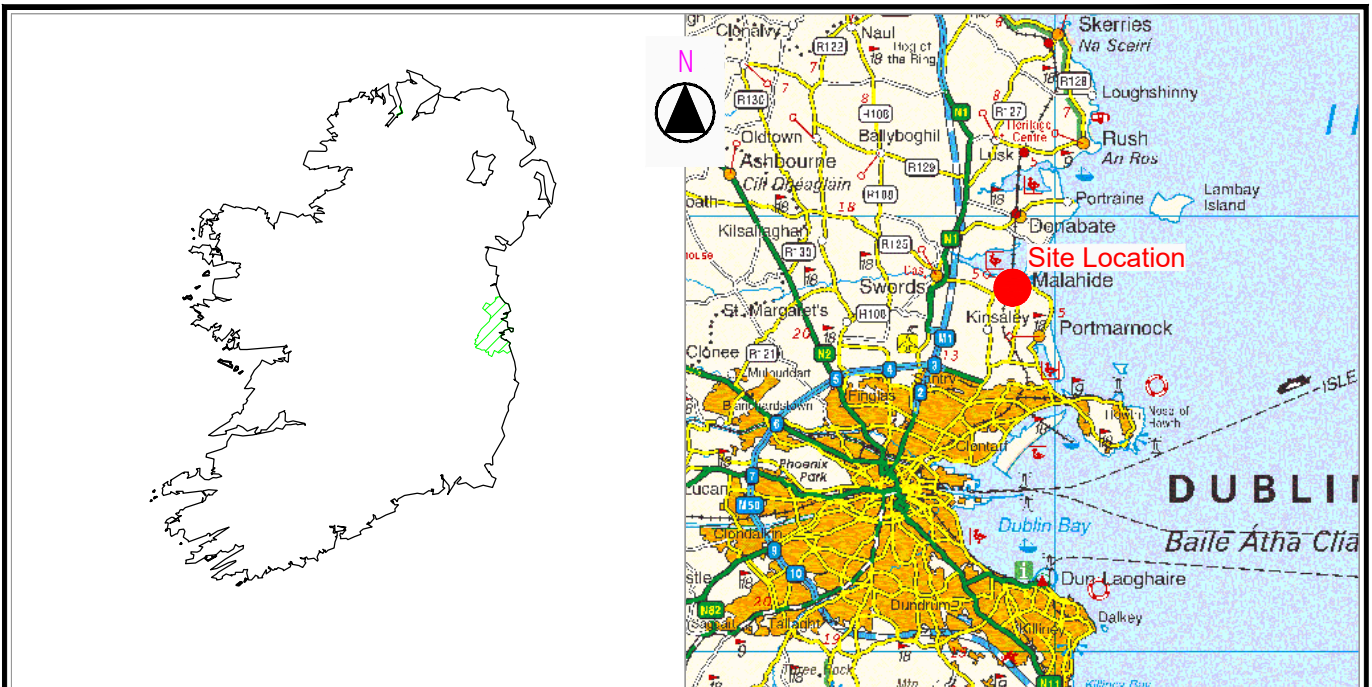
Fingal County Council Record of Protected Structures 2023-29 (<https://www.fingal.ie/development-plan>)
[accessed November 2023]



Aidan O'Connell

17th November 2023






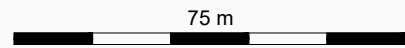
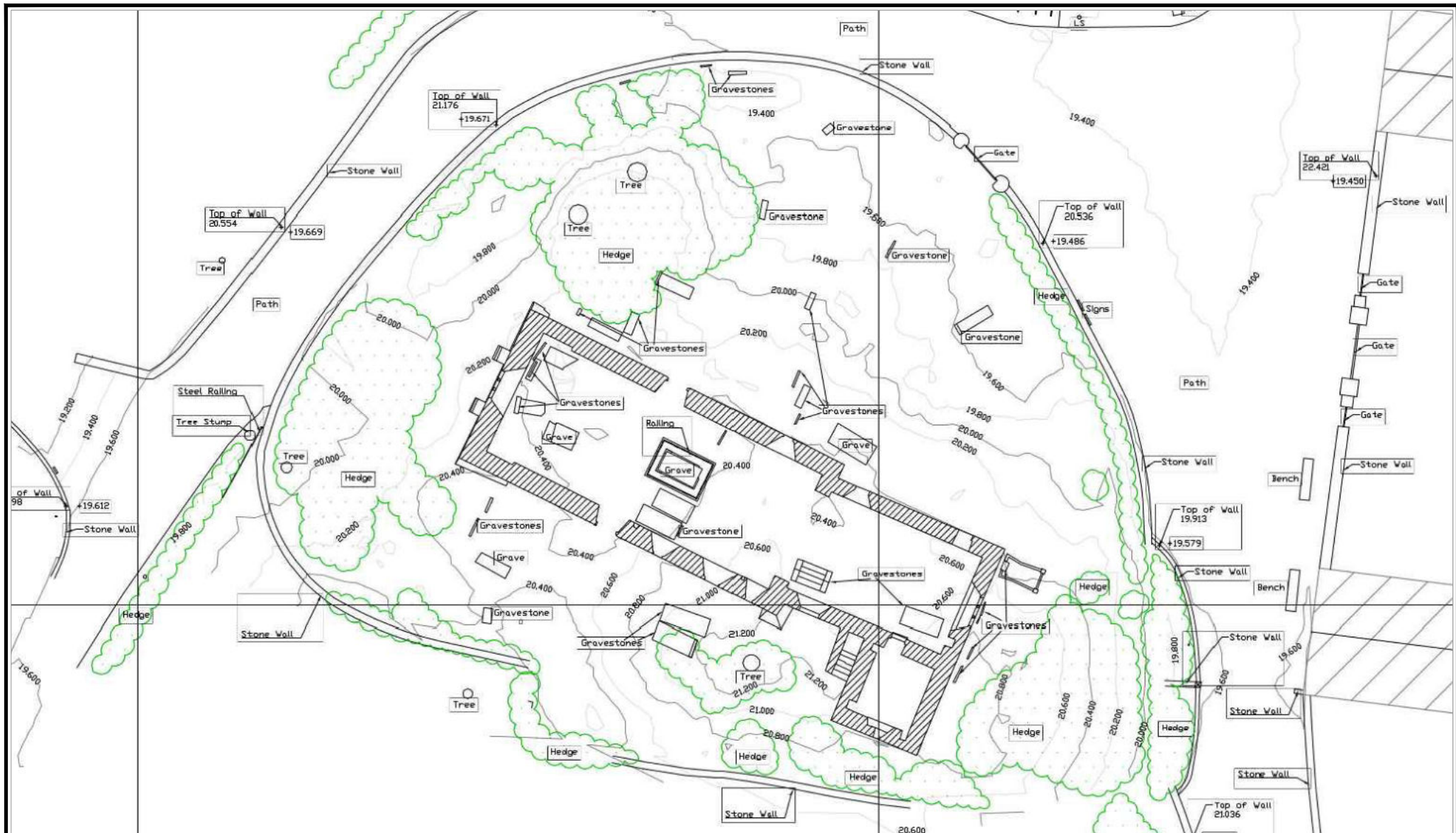
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		Archaeological Monitoring	Date: November 2023
			Origin: NMS
			Ref: 2023_33_AM_01

Figure 1: Location of site and surrounding RMP's

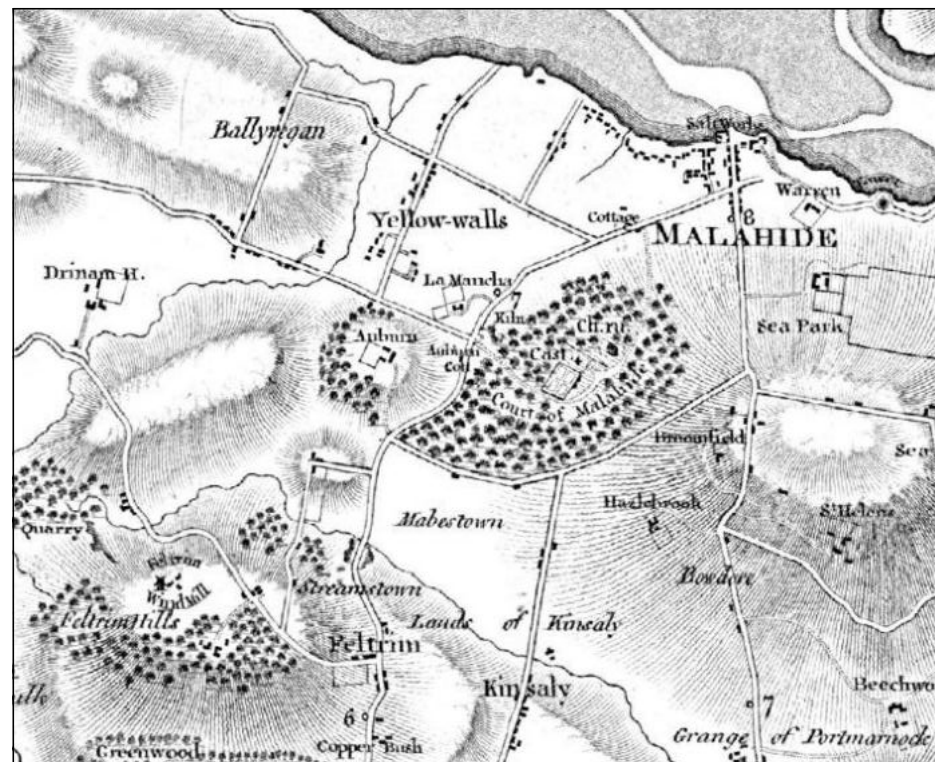


Unit 8 Beat Centre
 Stephenstown,
 Balbriggan,
 Co. Dublin

Malahide Abbey
 Archaeological Monitoring

Scale: 1:1500 A4
 Date: November 2023
 Origin: MMA Engineers
 Ref: 2023_33_AM_02

Figure 2: Church and Graveyard Layout Plan

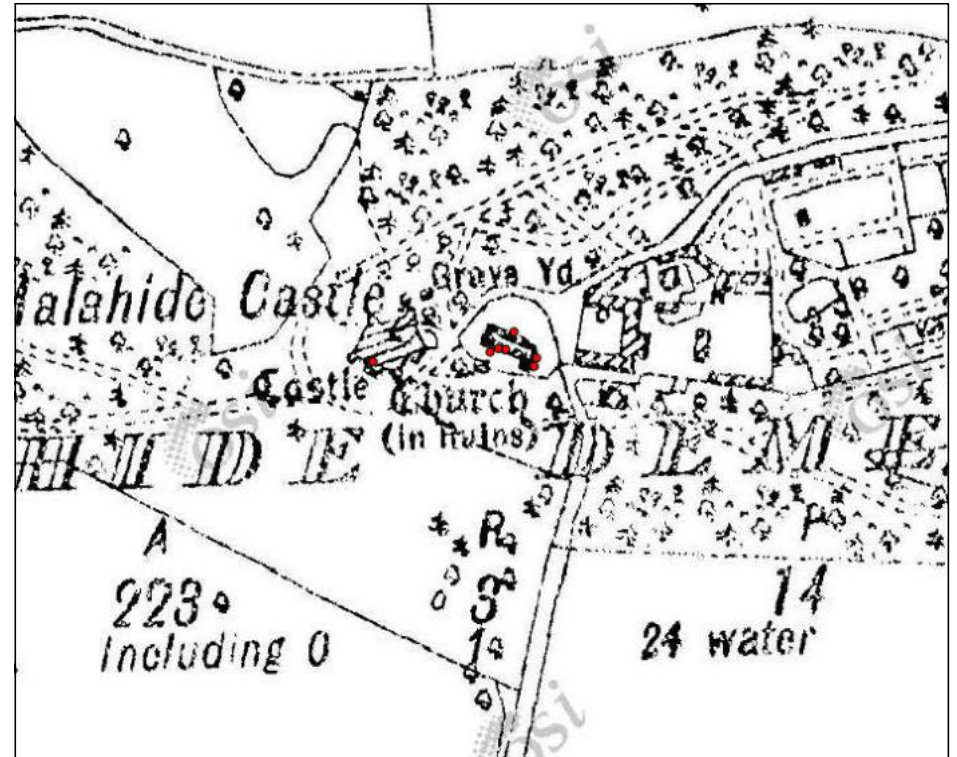
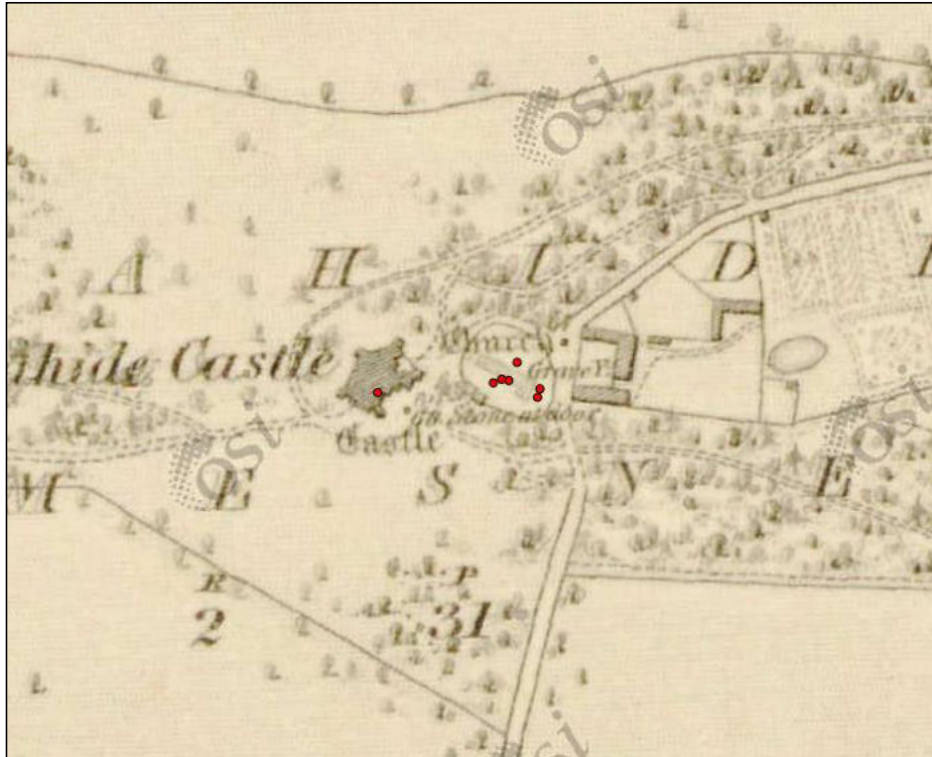


(l) Rocque - 1760

(r) Taylor - 1816

	1 Tenure Business Park, Tenure, Co. Louth A92 K2VF	Malahide Abbey	Scale: Not to scale
		Archaeological Monitoring	Date: November 2023
			Origin: HMoD
			Ref: 2023_33_AM_03

Figure 3: Extracts from historical maps (i)



(l) 1st edition OS - 1844

(r) last edition OS - 1906-9



1 Tenure Business Park,
Tenure, Co. Louth
A92 K2VF

Malahide Abbey
Archaeological Monitoring

Scale: Not to scale
Date: November 2023
Origin: NMS
Ref: 2023_33_AM_04

Figure 4: Extracts from historical maps (ii)



Plate 1: View of East Gable showing vegetation and Sheela-na-gig DU012-031003



Plate 2: View of NE external wall showing vegetation and Sheela-na-gig DU012-031002



Plate 3: Removal of vegetation from internal first floor of Residential Tower



Plate 4: Removal of vegetation from external north wall



Plate 5: Stone infill observed in east gable following vegetation removal



Plate 6: Possible arch on east gable



Plate 7: Vegetation growing along southern side of internal graveyard wall



Plate 8: Privet hedge on internal side of northeastern boundary wall



Plate 9: Vegetation growing on internal face of graveyard boundary wall from south



Plate 10: View of exposed building at south of boundary wall from northeast



Plate 11: View of re-pointed building at south of boundary wall from east



Plate 12: View of repairs to boundary wall from east



Plate 13: Removal of vegetation from internal side of boundary wall from northeast



Plate 14: Loose stone retained at the internal side of boundary wall from northeast



Plate 15: Coping stones stored along internal face of southern boundary wall from northwest



Plate 16: Loose stone collected and stored at southwestern side of boundary wall



Plate 17: Loose stone collected and stored at southwestern side of boundary wall



Plate 18: General view of church interior from northwest showing grave slab and tombs



Plate 19: View of grave slab removal from west



Plate 20: View of ground surface following removal of grave slab at west of church



Plate 21: Reinstated grave slab from west; note position of ambry in background



Plate 22: Grave marker relocated to western corner of church



Plate 23: View of tomb in advance of dismantling from north



Plate 24: Dismantling of tomb structure from north



Plate 25: Internal view of tomb



Plate 26: Reinstated tomb



Plate 27: General view of church taken from the chancel with reconstructed tomb in foreground



Plate 28: Reconstructed wall plate at north of nave



Plate 29: Threshold at first floor level in the residential tower



Plate 30: Crushed stone covering over floor level; residential tower; first floor; from south



Plate 31: Soil removal from under external buttress at northern corner of church



Plate 32: Soil removal from under external buttress at western corner of church